

*A Roman Altar inscribed to Belatucader, illustrated
by Mr. Gough.*

Read at the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES March 25, 1790.

THE inclosed inscription which has just been communicated to me by a gentleman who brought it from Cumberland in the course of the last summer, was exhibited to the Society by Major Rooke, and engraved in the *Archæologia*, Vol. IX. Pl. XVII. *a*.

DEO
MARTI
BELATVCAI
RO ET NVMI
NIB. AVGC
IVLIVS AV
GVSTALIS
ACTORIVS LV
PI PREF

It is on an altar in the most perfect preservation found last year at *Plumpton-wall*, upon the remains of the fort *Petriana*, now called *Castle-Heads* and *Cambeck-fort*; of which see the new edition of Camden's *Britannia*, Vol. III. p. 172—190.

No fewer than *nine* inscription in honor of Belatucader have been found in Britain. One at Elenborough now lost [*a*],

[*a*] Horsley, p. 283. Pref. ad Leland. *Itin.* VIII. p. xviii. Camden, vol. III. 171—185.

another at Wardal [b], a third at Burgh on sands [c], a fourth at Plumpton where the present was discovered [d], a 5th [e] and 6th [f] at Netherby, a seventh at Kirby Thor in Westmorland [g], an eighth in the river Irthing at Irthing at Scaleby castle [h], and the present makes the ninth.

Professor Ward [i], Bishop Lyttelton [k], and other Antiquaries [l], were of opinion that Belatucader was a local deity of the Brigantes and other northern people corresponding to the Apollo of the Greeks and Romans. Mr. Baxter [m], Dr. Gale [n], and Mr. Horsley [o], and Mr. Pegge [p], thought him equivalent with Mars. Mr. Pegge in a Memoir communicated to this Society 1771, and published in their *Archæologia*, Vol. III. 101—104, has clearly established the conformity between Belatucader and Mars. I shall not repeat his arguments, but content myself with observing that the inscription now under consideration is a decisive confirmation that the true reading of the inscription at Netherby lost since Mr. Camden's time is

Deo Marti Belatucadro.

[b] Horsley, Cumb. IX. p. 278. Camd. Ib. 172.

[c] *Archæologia*, vol. I. 308. Camd. Ib. 187.

[d] Ib. vol. III. 101. Camd. Id. 190.

[e] Pennant's Tour 1772, p. 197.

[f] Horsley, 271. Camden, Ib. 197.

[g] Horsley, Westm. III. 298. Camd. Ib. 148. 158.

[h] Horsley, Cumb. XXXI. p. 260. Camd. Ib. 201 Pl. XIII. 5.

[i] in Horsley, p. 261.

[k] *Archæologia*, vol. I. 101.

[l] Somner, Selden, Montfaucon, and the authors of the Universal History.

[m] *Glossar. Ant. Brit. in voce.*

[n] Anton. p. 34. In the preceding page he is inclined to suppose it the name of a river near *Belaw*.

[o] P. 271.

[p] *Archæol.* vol. III. p. 102.

without

without the intervention of *et* between the two names. Agreeable to this is the etymology of the name in the British language; *Bel y duw cadarn*, Bel, the *god of strength*, or of *castles* or *war*, whence Dr. Stukeley, in one of his MS. notes makes it synonymous with the scripture phrase, *the Lord of Hosts*. Mr. Baxter explains it *Bel at u cadr*, q. d. *Belus ad arcem montis*.

With him are here joined the *Numina Augustorum*, as with Jupiter Optimus Maximus & Dolichenus, (Horsley, Northumb. VII. p. 36, 37. 39.), and with the topical deity of the Brigantes (Yorksh. XVIII.) if we admit with Mr. Pegge [q] that *Juppiter* and *Mars Pater*, of the Romans were adopted by the Romanized Britons, we shall see the propriety of the compliment paid to their Emperors, by coupling them with these divinities.

Two of the former inscriptions to Belatucader are by a person of the name of *Julius*; for so I understand *Iolus*. Whether in the present *Augustalis* be the name of the dedicator or his office is next to be discust.

The *ludi Augustales*, or games in honor of Augustus, were celebrated by the Consuls and Tribunes of the people on the anniversary of his birth, as those on the festival of Mars; the consuls gave out prizes, and the tribunes observed a sacred solemnity [r]. *Augustalis* as a title of office occurs frequently in Gruter. *Augustales in coloniis & municipiis sacrorum curam agebant*, says Reinesius [s]. They were a college of priests for the Julian family instituted at Rome by Tiberius [t]. In the

[q] Arch. III. p. 102.

[r] Dio Cassius, LVI. 46.

[s] P. 29. Inf. XII.

[t] Tacitus, An. I. 54. Hist. II. 95.

colonies they were less numerous. They were also civil officers, either for the administration of justice, repair of roads, and other public offices; and even women held places under this title [u]. The same antiquary explains *Actor* by the Greek *ἐπιτροπος οἰκίῳν*, a house steward, and Spon, *Miscell. Antiq.* p. 209, calls *servus actor*, a major domo: and in Reinesius' *Inscriptions*, 65 Class XI. *Actor* is a land steward. May we then suppose that *Augustalis Actor* in our Plumpton inscription means some treasurer of the household, or of the army, or of the college of religious named *Augustales* appointed to celebrate the worship or memory of the Emperors? Mr. Horsley gives *Actarius* for *Actuarium* on an inscription Northumb. LXXVI. which Mr. Ward explains a commissary for supplying the troops with corn [x]. So also Gruter [y], and Muratori [z], have *Actor Augustalis a frumento*. But as *Actor* on inscriptions usually precedes *Augustalis*, perhaps the latter is rather the agnomen of the dedicator of this altar, who held the office of *Actor* under the præfect Julius Lupus.

Mr. Horsley is for referring *Numinibus Augg.* on the inscription Northumb. LXXXVIII. to the Emperors Severus and Caracalla, and *Augusti nostri*, Northumb. IX^a 2 & York. XIII. to Antoninus Pius and Verus [a]. The two first it is most natural to conclude are intended here, as the fort is on the wall of Severus. The date of this inscription will then fall between A. D. 207, when Severus began and A. D. 208, when he finished the wall [b] when Virius Lupus was proprætor, as he was throughout that reign, and occurs on two inscriptions, one on

[u] Reinesius, loc. cit.

[x] Horsley, p. 233.

[y] CCLX. 1.

[z] P. 994.

[a] See also *Archæologia*, vol. III. 120.

[b] Horsley, 61, 62.

a very fine altar now at Trinity College, Cambridge [c]; the other at Ilkley, seen by Mr. Camden, but since lost [d].

Julius Lupus, under whom *Julius Augustalis* served, may have been a relation of the proprætor: so may *Venustinus* Lupus, who dedicated an altar *Deo Sanc(to) Marti* [e], first published by Mr. Gordon [f]. Another proof that the two deities were the same under different names.

Petuaria was a station of so much consequence as to give name to an *Ala*, of which the *cobors II Gallorum equitum*, mentioned on an inscription found at *Plumpton* [g], and another from old *Penrith* [h], was part. I should ascribe the *Augg.* to the two *Philips* as on the last—were not the name of the *præfectus equitum* very different.

To whatever reign we ascribe this inscription we obtain a new name of a præfect.

Here then I leave these observations to the candor of some abler investigator into the Roman antiquities of this island.

Dec. 21, 1789.

RICHARD GOUGH.

[c] Horsley, York, I. 504, Camden, III. 15. 93.

[d] Horsley, Camd. Ib. 7. 49.

[e] Horsley, Cumb. XXXV.

[f] Itin. Sept. p. 81.

[g] MS. Letter of Mr. Patten to Mr. Horsley, p. 275. 107. 112.

[h] Cumb. LII. Horsley, pref. p. xx.



